



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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FISH CANNERY PRODUCTION HIGHER IN 1956

Increases in the packs of tuna, Alaska salmon, Maine sardines and Pacific Coast mackerel are largely responsible for the 10 percent increase in the 1956 production of fish canned for human food, the Department of the Interior announced today.

Fish and Wildlife Service records show that in 1956 there were 650,000,000 pounds of fishery products packed for human use compared with 588,000,000 pounds in 1955.

The tuna pack of 227 million pounds set a new record, beating the 1955 pack by 31 million pounds. The Alaska salmon pack was 144 million pounds, 30 million pounds higher than in 1955 but the Puget Sound salmon fisheries produced 20 million pounds less than in the year previous. The Puget Sound pack was 23 million pounds.

A larger run of red salmon in western and central Alaska and a better-than-usual run of chum salmon in central and southeastern Alaska were responsible for the gains made in the Alaska fisheries. The Puget Sound area experienced its usual "even-year absence" of pink salmon which, because of their two-year cycle, historically have large runs on odd-numbered years and almost no fish on even ones.

Pacific Coast firms engaged in canning Pacific and jack mackerel produced 50 million pounds in 1956, twice the 1955 mark. This heavy pack was due to a great extent to the extremely low sardine catch and the canners turned to mackerel as an alternative. The Pacific sardine pack of 32 million pounds was just half what it was in 1955. The Maine sardine canners had a much better year in 1956, canning 45 million pounds, an increase of 19 million over 1955.

South Atlantic and Gulf oyster canning of 4.3 million pounds was down considerably below the 1955 mark of 5.3 million pounds. Shrimp canners, with 13.8 million pounds in 1956 were slightly ahead of the previous year.

In the production of fishmeal a new record was set, the 296,000 tons in 1956 exceeding the 264,000 tons produced in 1955, which in turn had broken all previous marks. Approximately 70 percent of the 1956 production of fishmeal was from menhaden. This figure of 208,000 tons is also a record for menhaden meal.

There were 26,500,000 gallons of fish oil produced, seven percent more than in 1955 but considerably below the 1936 pack of 39,900,000 gallons.

Fish stick production was 53 million pounds, compared with 65 million pounds in 1945 and 50 million in 1954.

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